

EXHIBIT 5

RECHTSANWALT
DR. JOHANNES STIELDORF

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Via Hand Delivery

Her Honor Shira A. Scheindlin USDJ
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Chambers, Room 1620
New York, NY 10007

24th April, 2007

Re: Ski Train Fire in Kaprun, MDL # 1428 (SAS);
Blaimauer / Mitsumoto et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8960 (SAS);
Geier et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8961 (SAS) and Mitsumoto et al v.
Robert Bosch et al 06-CV-01657 (transferred from MDFL)

Honorable Judge Scheindlin,

In view of my previous negative experiences with Mr. Fagan and his fellow attorneys, the latest declarations and allegations of Mr. Fagan give reason for me to clarify a few points although I myself am not one of the parties in the above mentioned court cases.

(1)

I lost my 18 year-old son Matthäus in the Kaprun catastrophe.
I represent my family and 20 further victim family members as attorney in the Kaprun case.
The last thing I want is that those responsible go scot-free when there is a reasonable chance of calling them to account.

(2)

I am extremely shocked at and disappointed with the verdicts delivered in the criminal proceedings in Austria.
In my opinion, both the verdict reached in the first instance and the verdict of the appellate court are flagrant judicial errors.
But, formally speaking, these decisions have to be respected.

(3)

In view of these verdicts, I must represent both myself and my family as well as my clients as best as possible as regards the civil law claims which are still open.

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(4)

Mr. Fagan appeared on the scene shortly after the catastrophe in Austria and promised the earth. He wanted to gain "millions" (whether for each victim or for each family member - he was not even able to ever sensibly clarify this question).

(5)

Over the last years and up until now, neither Mr. Fagan nor his fellow attorneys have answered basic questions regarding their efforts in the USA such as

- what law applies,
- when do the claims become time-barred,
- on what grounds does the US court have jurisdiction,
- how the various "defendants" are proved to be the proper parties with respect to the plaintiffs' claims, etc.

(6)

On the occasion of the opt-in declaration during the first class action he had already told all victim family members that the phrasing of this declaration was pre-determined by the court and could therefore not be changed. He also said that the deadline for joining could neither be changed nor extended.

(7)

He said the same again in August / September 2006 when he called in new declarations (retainers) in the form of an ultimatum. He, respectively Mr. Lowy, maintained that this was absolutely the last opportunity to participate in the US proceedings. Such participation would only be possible with a written power of attorney (retainer).

Judging from the way it was phrased, the objective of this retainer was obvious - to secure the representation rights for Mr. Fagan both in the USA and, above all, in Europe before the Austrian Commission and the absolute subordination to Mr. Fagan's methods and decisions.

(8)

With these (new) retainers, Mr. Fagan therefore tried to obtain authorisations and retainers (again) which had already expired, partly on account of the deadline set by him, or which he had actually not had from the very beginning. I had always made it clear for myself and my clients that he was only entitled to representation in the USA and that I alone would attend to the European proceedings.

The offer I had already made to Mr. Fagan in 2002(?) that we discuss and agree on final agreements so that any decision made would not interfere with the efforts of the other was completely ignored.

In September 2006, this point was again raised with Mr. Lowy with regard to Mr. Fagan's draft of a new retainer. At the same time, I pointed out numerous deficits in the amended complaint. He explained that, without this new retainer agreement, any possibilities at all of participating in the "successful" American proceedings would be finally lost for my clients and myself. Such participation would only be possible with a written retainer which would have to be submitted within a deadline of a few days.

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The wording of this proposed retainer would in my opinion conflict with Austrian professional rules of conduct.

Furthermore, with this new retainer agreement, it is clear that Mr. Fagan also wishes to take over the leadership in the Austrian negotiations. This is not only contrary to agreement but also unacceptable in view of his performance in Austria which can only be described as being pathetic.

However, it emerged that no deadline had been set either by the court or by law and that court action obviously did not depend on a written retainer. Mr. Fagan apparently represented a number of clients without having received a new retainer.

(9)

Against this background, special mention must be made of the fact that Mr. Fagan was not willing or not in a position to give the Austrian Commission in Vienna precise details of whom he actually represented or for whom he believed he was conducting negotiations at the Commission meetings, in spite of repeatedly being asked to do so.

(10)

Mr. Fagan makes it clear both at meetings in Vienna and in his various complaints that he does not really know the case, that he confuses persons and facts and is not in a position to interpret the status of shareholdings and participations. In spite of it having been explained to him several times, he is completely unaware of the fact that entities with mere capital interests have no or only very limited influence, so that no liability on their part can be derived there from. Nor does he understand that public law corporations can only exert direct influence to a limited extent and only on the basis of legal provisions on companies such as, for example, the GBK (glacier railway).

(11)

Although there was no success discernable in the US cases as yet, he tried to keep the family members of the European victims toeing the line with unsubstantiated jubilant reports, repeatedly suggesting the imminent breakthrough/conclusion of a substantial settlement.

This is contrary to all the information available to me according to which all European companies named by him as defendants rejected a settlement in the USA as a matter of principle.

(12)

I believe that, at proceedings before a US judge in December 2006, Mr. Fagan maintained that he still represented both myself, my family and my clients (?). This is definitely not correct.

I have also heard that, considerable time ago, quite a number of other clients had withdrawn the powers of attorney they had given him or had simply allowed time-limited powers of attorney to expire without agreeing on an extension, but they were or are still being named by him as plaintiffs in the various proceedings.

(13)

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DR. JOHANNES STIELDORF

In as far as I obtained information on which depositions Mr. Fagan was planning, I tried to determine the validity of the evidence tendered. In most cases, it ensued that this evidence was not suitable to contribute towards the decision-relevant facts of the case.

Questioning witnesses on procedural matters after the catastrophe is completely amiss if the claims have not even been sufficiently clarified on their merits (see above).

I have always accused Mr. Fagan of clearly acting against the interests of the clients here because all these useless and pointless depositions involve considerable costs and the European companies, who showed themselves to be willing to contribute towards the solution of the Austrian Commission, would of course deduct the costs incurred by the depositions from the amount reserved for the contributions.

(14)

Mr. Fagan and all the others who have made affidavits or applications to the court falsely maintain that I, for myself and/or the sub-commission, had tried to bribe Mr. Fagan with money to abandon the US complaints.

The truth is that, in the sub-commission, other companies and participants had shown willingness to make further contributions under the prerequisite that the US American proceedings, which had been completely unsuccessful to date, be stopped.

Even if I and quite a number of colleagues are of the opinion that Mr. Fagan's activities have lead to nothing but have, on the contrary, caused delays and useless/lost expenses and that he is therefore entitled to no fee or remuneration for his "efforts", the sub-commission resolved, as a general settlement for all US American attorneys (of the plaintiffs), to make an amount available as contribution to the costs should the American activities be ended.

Against this background, this was all that I set forth in the respective talks although it is my personal opinion that Mr. Fagan and the other attorneys were actually entitled to nothing for their activities in Europe which were counterproductive and only involved costs for the work of the Commission.

(15)

From the very beginning and now even more so in view of his latest activates, I have been and still am of the opinion that Mr. Fagan is only interested in being paid as large a fee as possible.

The fact that, in his bankruptcy proceedings, he quotes the sum of EUR 16,000,000 (not US Dollars 16,000,000) already offered by the Austrian Commission in Vienna as being his only (!) asset for reorganisation within the Chapter 11 proceedings clearly shows that he is of the opinion that his activities in the USA do not stand a chance of being successful.

His paltry efforts of maintaining that important evidence such as the pressure tanks had apparently been found must also be seen against this background. This

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evidence is completely immaterial as regards the course of the catastrophe as the explosion of the pressure tanks was indeed a cause of the fire but did not occur until after the death of our loved ones.

(16)

As Mr. Fagan has not only repeatedly failed to observe deadlines in his bankruptcy proceedings but also in the proceedings pending here, but also not made submissions or presented documents in good time, it would seem necessary that the court exert pressure on him to coherently conduct the lawsuit.

The latest allegations and declarations are to be seen and assessed in the light of my statement.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Johannes Stieldorf)

RE: 4.25.07 Dr. Stieldorf Letter to the Court

09/04/2007 01:20 PM

From: Jennifer_Rosenberg@nysd.uscourts.gov**To:** Kanzlei Dr. Johannes Stieldorf | Sekretariat <office@stieldorf.at>**Cc:** Rooney, Paul P. <PRooney@ReedSmith.com>; faganlawintl@aim.com; JRice@nrmrlaw.com**Subject:** RE: 4.25.07 Dr. Stieldorf Letter to the Court**Date:** Wed, 25 Apr 2007 3:05 pm**Attachments:** StieldorfFagan24_04_07ENGLISH.doc (49K)

Dear Dr. Stieldorf,

The Judge has received your letter and is grateful for your input. She asks that I inform you that she will give it full consideration in deciding any issues in this case.

With this email, I am forwarding your letter to all liaison counsel in the U.S. litigation (please see attachment, below).

Sincerely,

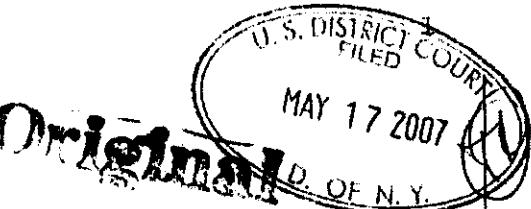
Jennifer

Jennifer S. Rosenberg
Law Clerk to the Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 1620
New York, NY 10007
Office: 212.805.0474

Stieldorf(See attached file: StieldorfFagan24_04_07ENGLISH.doc)

74PSSKIC

conference

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3 -----x4 IN RE: SKI TRAIN FIRE
5 IN KAPRUN, AUSTRIA
6 -----xCASE NO.
01 MDL 1428 (SAS)
06 CV. 1657 (SAS)7
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New York, N.Y.
April 25, 2007
11:45 a.m.

Before:

HON. SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN,

District Judge

DOC # 280

APPEARANCES

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Attorneys for American Plaintiffs
BY: CHRISTINA FRYEDWARD D. FAGAN
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Attorneys for Plaintiffs
BY: JAMES F. LOWYHANTMAN & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
BY: ROBERT J. HANTMANREED, SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Defendant
Bosch Rexroth Corporation
BY: PAUL P. ROONEYSOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.
(212) 805-0300

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1 APPEARANCES (Cont'd)

2 MORRISON, MAHONEY, L.L.P.
3 Attorneys for Defendant Bosch Rexroth AG
BY: AARTI SONI4 BARTLETT, McDONOUGH, BASTONE & MONASHAW
5 Attorneys for Defendant Omnilight
BY: E. GORDON HAESLOOP6 FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, L.L.P.
7 Attorneys for Defendant Exxon Mobil Corporation
BY: JOHN TULLY8 LITTLETON JOYCE
9 Attorneys for Defendant Siemens Corporation
BY: ROBERT JOYCE10 KIRKLAND & ELLIS, L.L.P.
11 Attorneys for Defendant Siemens Corporation
BY: BRANT W. BISHOP12 MENDES & MOUNT, L.L.P.
13 Attorneys for Defendant Wika
BY: EILEEN T. McCABE
STEPHEN ROBERTS14 McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
15 Attorneys for Defendant GBK
BY: CRYSSA V. VALLETTA

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.
(212) 905-0300

1 (Case called)
2 THE COURT: Mr. Rice, good morning.
3 MR. RICE: Yes. Good morning, your Honor.
4 THE COURT: Ms. Fry.
5 MS. PRY: Good morning.
6 THE COURT: Mr. Fagan.
7 MR. FAGAN: Good morning.
8 THE COURT: Mr. Lowy.
9 MR. LOWY: Good morning.
10 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Hantman.
11 MR. HANTMAN: Good morning.
12 THE COURT: Mr. Littleton, good morning.
13 MR. LITTLETON: Good morning.
14 THE COURT: Mr. Bishop.
15 MR. BISHOP: Good morning, your Honor.
16 THE COURT: Mr. Haesloop.
17 MR. HAESLOOP: Good morning, your Honor.
18 THE COURT: Mr. Rooney.
19 MR. ROONEY: Good morning, your Honor.
20 THE COURT: Ms. Soni.
21 MS. SONI: Good morning, your Honor.
22 THE COURT: You all signed the seating chart so
23 Mr. Gilmore; Mr. Joyce; Mr. Tully; is it?
24 MR. TULLY: Good morning, your Honor; yes.
25 THE COURT: Ms. McCabe.

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1 MS. McCABE: Good morning, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Roberts.

3 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. Good morning, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: And Ms. Valletta.

5 MS. VALLETTA: Good morning, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Well, there has been just a pile of
7 submissions pouring in right up to the last minute, almost too
8 many to list but for the record I do like to do that -- sorry
9 to say. 18 submissions that we had. I guess that's the result
10 of the availability of e-mail. it makes it so easy for people
11 to fire off responses to one another. But, I have reviewed
12 those 18 so I will just briefly read them into the record and
13 then we will get to the heart of it.

14 An April 9th letter from Mr. Bishop to the Court
15 regarding plaintiff's failure to timely file opposition papers
16 to defendants' motion to dismiss. That was No. 1.

17 No. 2. E-mail dated April 11th from Mr. Fagan to the
18 Court, regarding that opposition.

19 No. 3. A letter dated April 11th, Mr. Rooney to the
20 Court, regarding plaintiff's late opposition.

21 No. 4. Letter dated April 12th from Mr. Bishop to the
22 Court, regarding plaintiff's late opposition.

23 No. 5. Letter dated April 13th from Mr. Lowy,
24 Mr. Pagan and Mr. Hantman to the Court requesting Rule 16
25 conference to discuss alleged witness tampering.

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No. 9. A letter dated April 17th from Ms. Valletta to
the Court responding to plaintiff's allegations of witness
tampering.

12 No. 9. A letter dated April 17th from Mr. Hantman to
13 the Court responding to Mr. Bishop's April 16th letter and
14 further requesting a Rule 16 conference, again to discuss the
15 alleged witness tampering.

16 No. 10. A letter dated April 18th from Mr. Haesloop
17 to the Court trying to clarify the briefing schedule on a
18 number of pending motions.

19 No. 11. A letter dated April 20th from Mr. Bishop to
20 the Court.

20
21 And I am going to pause at this point for a minute.
22 explaining why Siemens is not filing at this time a motion to
23 dismiss itself as a defendant in the newly transferred
24 Mitsumoto case because it says in that letter that you agreed
25 to dismiss Mr. Fayan but you haven't filed the papers.

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1 Is it accurate that you agree to dismiss Siemens from
2 that case? He has got written proof of it.

3 MR. FAGAN: It is, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Why haven't you filed the dismissal so
5 that he is confident that it is done?

6 MR. FAGAN: Your Honor --

7 THE COURT: Just on this one I paused from the reading
8 of all the letters just to make sure it is done.

9 MR. FAGAN: Your Honor, I have no problem with that.

10 Mr. Lowy was the counsel in Florida, he was supposed to execute
11 it and we will do it. We will do it right now, Judge.

12 MR. BISHOP: I have a copy, your Honor. I can pass it
13 to them to sign.

14 THE COURT: Why don't we do that. I will pause, you
15 sign, and we will file and then you have that confidence.
16 Mr. Bishop, that that's at least done.

17 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Hand it up to my clerk and it will be
19 filed. Thank you.

20 No. 12. Letter dated April 23rd, from Mr. Rooney to
21 the Court, requesting Mr. Fagan be held personally responsible
22 for the costs of deposing the whistle-blowers as a sanction
23 pursuant to 28, United States Code, Section 1927.

24 No. 13. A letter dated April 24th from Mr. Fagan to
25 the Court responding to Mr. Rooney's April 23rd letter and

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1 offering an agenda for today's conference.

2 No. 14. Letter dated April 24th, from Mr. Littleton
3 to the Court, requesting that the Court rescind the
4 confidentiality orders related to the so-called whistle
5 blowers.

6 No. 15. An e-mail dated April 24th from Mr. Rooney
7 to the Court offering an agenda for today's conference.

8 No. 16. An April 25th email from Mr. Bishop to the
9 Court sort of rephrasing one of the topics. Mr. Bishop wrote
10 that he takes the position he really doesn't want an extension,
11 he really wants to say that plaintiff's late papers should be
12 entirely disregarded and surely plaintiff should not be given
13 any more time to file any additional papers. But, if the Court
14 won't disregard and he doesn't want extension, he doesn't think
15 plaintiff should get additional time.

16 No. 17. A letter dated April 24th from Mr. Rooney
17 requesting leave to move to disqualify Mr. Fagan on a number of
18 grounds.

19 No. 18. An e-mail from Mr. Fagan dated April 25th,
20 to the Court, responding to Mr. Rooney's letter.

21 I think that's the very last e-mail. Okay. That
22 describes the list of submissions that the Court is dealing
23 with here. I do have both sides' proposed motion list and I
24 added a few of my own, one of which we just took care of, the
25 Siemens dismissal; another one is the bond. Can anyone tell me

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(312) 805-0300

EXHIBIT 6

From: Jennifer_Rosenberg@nysd.uscourts.gov

To: faganlawintl@aim.com

Cc: aliедerm@morrisonmahoney.com; ASoni@morrisonmahoney.com; AvonWaldow@ReedSmith.com; bbishop@kirkland.com; CMOERDLER@stroock.com; cvalletta@mwe.com; egordon.haesloop@bmbmlaw.com; Eileen.McCabe@mendes.com; gregory.t.kenney@exxonmobil.com; Hantmannj@aol.com; jameslowy@floridalawgroup.com; JRice@NRMLAW.com; PRooney@ReedSmith.com; rgilmore@kirkland.com; robert.littleton@littletonjoyce.com; rowen@fulbright.com; rswift@kohnswift.com; rweiner@mwe.com; stephen@harnik.com

Subject: Re: ROSA DEPOSITION

Date: Wed, 6 Jun 2007 3:02 pm



The Judge just spoke with Mr. Rosa.

His deposition will take place tomorrow, in accordance with the schedule arranged by Mr. Haesloop.

Jennifer S. Rosenberg
Law Clerk to the Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 1620
New York, NY 10007
Office: 212.805.0474

EXHIBIT 7

From: Jennifer_Rosenberg@nysd.uscourts.gov

To: PRooney@ReedSmith.com; faganlawintl@aim.com; aliедerm@morisonmahoney.com; ASoni@morisonmahoney.com; AvonWaldow@ReedSmith.com; bbishop@kirkland.com; CMOERDLER@stroock.com; cvalletta@mwe.com; egordon.haesloop@bmbmlaw.com; Eileen.McCabe@mendes.com; Hantmanrj@aol.com; jameslowy@floridalawgroup.com; JRice@NRMLAW.com; rgilmore@kirkland.com; robert.littleton@littletonjoyce.com; rswift@kohnswift.com; rweiner@mwe.com; rowen@fulbright.com; gregory.t.kenney@exxonmobil.com; stephen@harnik.com

Subject: In re Ski Train, MDL 1428

Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2007 3:17 pm

Hello Everyone,

Will any party with the requisite information please answer the Court's following questions:

① How many foreign plaintiffs currently do not have civil actions pending in Austria? ② And, if plaintiffs falling in this category attempted to file suit today, would their claims be time-barred? (i.e., What is the applicable statute of limitations in Austria for analogous tort actions?). 

Please respond ASAP and no later than close of business Wednesday, June 20th.

Thank you.

Jennifer S. Rosenberg
Law Clerk to the Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 1620
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Office: 212.805.0474

From: faganlawintl@aim.com

To: Jennifer_Rosenberg@nysd.uscourts.gov; PRooney@ReedSmith.com; aliедerm@morisonmahoney.com; ASoni@morisonmahoney.com; AvonWaldow@ReedSmith.com; bbishop@kirkland.com; CMOERDLER@stroock.com; cvalletta@mwe.com; egordon.haesloop@bmbmlaw.com; Eileen.McCabe@mendes.com; Hantmannj@aol.com; jameslowy@floridalawgroup.com; JRice@NRMLAW.com; rgilmore@kirkland.com; robert.littleton@littletonjoyce.com; rswift@kohnswift.com; rweiner@mwe.com; rowen@fulbright.com; gregory.t.kenney@exxonmobil.com; stephen@harnik.com

Subject: Re: In re Ski Train, MDL 1428

Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2007 3:46 pm

Dear Ms. Rosenberg:

I have your email and can advise that the only claims that have been filed in Austria by foreign plaintiffs are against GBK - which is presently not a party in the US cases, despite the recently filed Rule 60 (b) Motion.

I will ask the question of the Austrian Cooperating Lawyers and provide a detailed response defendant by defendant named in each of the existing complaints.



Ed Fagan

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer_Rosenberg@nysd.uscourts.gov

To: PRooney@ReedSmith.com; faganlawintl@aim.com; aliедerm@morisonmahoney.com; ASoni@morisonmahoney.com; AvonWaldow@ReedSmith.com; bbishop@kirkland.com; CMOERDLER@stroock.com; cvalletta@mwe.com; egordon.haesloop@bmbmlaw.com; Eileen.McCabe@mendes.com; Hantmannj@aol.com; jameslowy@floridalawgroup.com; JRice@NRMLAW.com; rgilmore@kirkland.com; robert.littleton@littletonjoyce.com; rswift@kohnswift.com; rweiner@mwe.com; rowen@fulbright.com; gregory.t.kenney@exxonmobil.com; stephen@harnik.com

Sent: Mon, 18 Jun 2007 3:17 pm

Subject: In re Ski Train, MDL 1428

Hello Everyone,

Will any party with the requisite information please answer the Court's following questions:

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Thank you.

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Check Out the new free AIM(R) Mail -- 2 GB of storage and industry-leading spam and email virus protection.

EDWARD D. FAGAN ESQ.

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Via Fax Delivery

Tuesday 19 June 2007

Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin USDJ
United States District Court - Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street - Chambers - Room 1620
New York, NY 10007

Re: *In Re: Ski Train Fire in Kaprun Austria on November 11, 2000, MDL # 1428 (SAS); Blaimauer et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8960 (SAS); Geier et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8961 (SAS); Mitsumoto et al v. Republic of Austria et al 06-CV-2811 (SAS) and Mitsumoto et al v. Robert Bosch Corp et al 07-CV-935 (SAS)*

Honorable Judge:

Together with my colleagues James F. Lowy Esq. and Robert Hantman Esq. I represent the Blaimauer/Mitsumoto, Geier and Mitsumoto Plaintiffs in the above matters.

I am advised by my co-counsel that the Court has issued an Opinion and Order despite the fact the Court requested and set a deadline for TOMORROW at 5 pm by which to provide additional information related to the Defendants Motion to Dismiss for alleged *Forum Non Conveniens*. I have not had an opportunity to access emails or to read or review the Opinion and Order which my co-counsel have advised me was apparently issued by Court' on June 19, 2007. Based on what has been related to me, the June 19, 2007 Opinion and Order contained certain factual and legal errors.

The Court should note that I am surprised that any Opinion and order would have been issued prior to June 20/21, 2007, which was the earliest possible date based upon Your Honor's Clerk Ms. Rosenberg's June 18, 2007 email.. On June 18, 2007, Ms. Rosenberg on behalf of the Court requested clarification as to certain threshold issues.

In response to this request by the Court per Ms. Rosenberg, I contacted Austrian and Japanese counsel, requested and am receiving Declarations that show that Austrian is NOT an adequate alternate *forum* for Plaintiffs' claims and that in fact most if not all of the claims are either "*Dead on Arrival*" or any resolution in Austrian could not be enforceable as against the moving Defendants – all of which are US Companies in US Courts. These Declarations would have been and are being provided within the time prescribed by the Court and I respectfully submit that any opinion and Order issued before the June 20, 2007 deadline imposed by Court for the additional information is, respectfully, improvidently issued.

I respectfully submit that the Court's Opinion and Order of June 19, 2007 was issued premature and was issued without waiting for the responses to the Court's June 18, 2007 requests for information which would have shown the factual and legal basis for denying Defendants' Motion based upon allegations that Austria is an adequate alternate forum which the facts and law, including the responses to the Court's June 18, 2007 questions, show it is not.

EDWARD D. FAGAN ESQ.
Law Offices

Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin USDJ – 6/19/07 Letter to Judge Scheindlin – Page 2

*Re: In Re:Ski Train Fire in Kaprun Austria on November 11, 2000, MDL # 1428 (SAS);
Blaimauer et al v. Omnid glow et al, 03-CV-8960 (SAS); Geier et al v. Omnid glow et al, 03-CV-8961 (SAS); Mitsumoto et al v Republic of Austria et al, 06-CV-2811 (SAS) and
Mitsumoto et al v. Robert Bosch Corp et al 07-CV-935 (SAS)*

I will submit the Declarations as per the Court's June 18, 2007 request, which come from knowledgeable Austrian counsel and which are in response to the Court's request by the Court imposed deadline as set forth in Your Honor's Clerk, Ms. Rosenberg's email from June 18, 2007, by June 20, 2007 by the close of business US time.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully urge the Court NOT to formally enter any decision until such time as the Court has considered the Declarations in response to the questions requested by Your Honor's Clerk, Ms Rosenberg as per her email of yesterday, and within the time set by the Court as the close of business TOMORROW – June 20, 2007.

As always, thank you for the Court's continued attention and time in these cases.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Edward D. Fagan

Edward D. Fagan

EDF/

Ccs: All Counsel of Record in the All Cases - electronically

EDWARD D. FAGAN ESQ.

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Via Fax Delivery

Wednesday 20 June 2007

Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin USDJ
United States District Court - Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street - Chambers - Room 1620
New York, NY 10007

Re: *In Re: Ski Train Fire in Kaprun Austria on November 11, 2000, MDL # 1428 (SAS); Blaimauer et al v. Omnid glow et al, 03-CV-8960 (SAS); Geier et al v. Omnid glow et al, 03-CV-8961 (SAS); Mitsumoto et al v. Republic of Austria et al 06-CV-2811 (SAS) and Mitsumoto et al v. Robert Bosch Corp et al 07-CV-935 (SAS)*

Honorable Judge:

Together with my colleagues Robert Hantman and James Lowy, I represent the Blaimauer/Mitsumoto, Geier and Mitsumoto Plaintiffs in the above matters.

As a follow up to my letter from last night, and by 5 pm today (the time set by the Court as conveyed to the parties by Your Honor's Clerk Ms. Rosenberg) I will submit the responses to the Court's questions from Monday June 18, 2007 related to the adequacy of Austria as an alternate forum, and specifically describing any bars to Plaintiffs re-filing of the actions in Austria.

I have already been advised by Austrian & Japanese Counsel (including Dr. Ivo Greiter, Dr. Herwig Hasslacher, Dr. Toichiro Kigawa and Dr. Ulrich Schwab) that there are multiple bars, including jurisdiction and/or time bars, to these claims being re-filed in Austria.

Declarations from these Austrian & Japanese counsel in response to the Court's questions will show that any finding that Defendants met their burden on the Motion to disturb Plaintiffs choice of forum and failed to demonstrate that Austria is an adequate alternate forum for Plaintiffs claims is/was based on (i) an error of law, or (ii) clearly erroneous finding of fact, or is not located within the range of permissible decisions, or (iii) fails to consider all the relevant factors or unreasonably balances those factors in determining the deference to plaintiffs choice of forum of the analysis of the adequacy of Austria as an alternate forum. Any such finding requires reconsideration and reversal. See *Norex Petroleum Ltd. v. Access Industries*, 416 F.3d 146 (2nd Cir. 2005) and *Pollux Holding Ltd. v. Chase Manhattan Bank*, 329 F.3d 64, 70 (2d Cir. 2003).

In view of the foregoing, I again urge the Court to refrain formally entering any decision without considering the specific additional information requested on June 18, 2007 and which shows that Austria is not an adequate alternate forum for these claims and as such Defendants' Motions to Dismiss based on *forum non conveniens* should have been and should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ electronically signed
Edward D. Fagan

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Wednesday 20 June 2007

Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin USDJ

United States District Court - Southern District of New York

500 Pearl Street - Chambers - Room 1620

New York, NY 10007

Re: In Re:Ski Train Fire in Kaprun Austria on November 11, 2000, MDL # 1428 (SAS); Blaimauer et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8960 (SAS); Geier et al v. Omnidglow et al, 03-CV-8961 (SAS); Mitsumoto et al v. Republic of Austria et al 06-CV-2811 (SAS) and Mitsumoto et al v. Robert Bosch Corp et al 07-CV-935 (SAS)

Honorable Judge:

Pursuant to Ms. Rosenberg; June 18, 2007 email, enclosed please find the June 20, 2007 Declaration of Dr. Ivo Greiter (“Greiter Declaration”) responsive to questions raised by the Court in its email of Monday afternoon June 18, 2007 where the Court raised the issues of potential bars to re-filing of claims in Austria.

The Greiter Declaration is submitted by the 5 pm time as prescribed by the Court on Monday June 18, 2007. The Court should note that Dr. Greiter requested that I advise the Court that in his par. 4 b) iii) there is a typo which should ready Bosch Rexroth Corporation that has been a defendant in the US since 2001 and as to which the same opinions and conclusions apply.

I do realize that there was a decision issued yesterday on Pacer indicating that the Court would not consider further submissions. However, I believe that this submission is consistent with the Court prior request.

If I am incorrect I apologize for any inconvenience to the Court but believe this submission is proper and should be included for completeness of the record.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ electronically signed
Edward D. Fagan

Attached 5 Page Declaration of Dr. Ivo Greiter

Ccs: All Counsel of Record in the All Cases - electronically

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

IN RE: SKI TRAIN FIRE IN KAPRUN AUSTRIA ON NOVEMBER 11, 2000		X	MDL # 1428 (SAS)
This document relates to the following cases:		X	
BLAIMAUER, et al.,		X	
- and -		X	Civil Action # 03-CV-8960 (SAS)
OMNIGLOW CORPORATION, et al		X	
Defendants.		X	
GREITER, et al.,		X	
- and -		X	Civil Action # 03-CV-8961 (SAS)
OMNIGLOW CORPORATION, et al		X	
Defendants.		X	
MITSUMOTO, et al.,		X	
- and -		X	Civil Action # 06-CV-2811 (SAS)
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA, et al		X	
Defendants.		X	
MITSUMOTO, et al.,		X	
- and -		X	Civil Action # 07-CV-938 (SAS)
ROBERT BOSCH CORPORATION, et al		X	
Defendants.		X	

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO COURT'S
JUNE 18, 2007 QUESTIONS RELATED TO CLAIMS IN AUSTRIA AND
POTENTIAL BAR IF CLAIMS WERE FILED NOW IN AUSTRIA**

I, Ivo Greiter, lawyer in Innsbruck, Austria, Europe hereby declare and say:

- 1) I am a lawyer in Innsbruck, Austria, Europe and have been involved with the claims of Kaprun victims and survivors from 2001 to the present.



- 2) I make this declaration in response to the Court's questions about Civil Action pending in Austria of June 18, 2007.
- 3) Ed Fagan informed me that the Court has asked these questions because it is presently considering Motions to Dismiss by American defendants in the Blaginawer, Gates and Mitsumoto cases which have alleged that Austria is a more convenient forum for the existing US claims and that the Kaprun victims and/or survivors can bring the same claims that they have in the United States in Austria. That is unfortunately not true.
- 4) There are multiple "bars" to the bringing of claims in Austria in 2007 by the Kaprun victims families whom I represent in Austria. They are as follows:
 - a) There is a practical problem with the ability of the Austrian courts to enforce any judgment that could be attained in Austria against US-companies;
 - b) There is a time bar to the bringing of any claim against the defendant companies that have been named in the complaints that have been pending or brought in the United States dating back to 2001. According to the information from Ed Fagan these defendants include:
 - i) Omnilow Corporation and its alleged successor Cyalume;
 - ii) American Cyanimid Corporation or its alleged successor Wyeth;
 - iii) Robert Bosch Corporation;
 - iv) Bosch Rexroth AG;
 - v) Bosch Rexroth GmbH;
 - vi) Rexroth Mannesmann AG;
 - vii) Rexroth Mannesmann GmbH;
 - viii) Mannesmann AG;
 - ix) Mannesmann GmbH;

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- x) Siemens AG;
- xi) Siemens AG Austria;
- xii) Siemens Transportation Systems Inc;
- xiii) Siemens Transportation Systems GmbH;
- xiv) Siemens Transportation Systems Inc; and
- xv) OS - Verband.

- 5) The Austrian legal system would bar these complaints because they do not have the same principles which we have been told by Ed Fagan exist in the United States and which apply to the existing US claims, as to which we rely on our present US counsel and previously relied on former class counsel. According to the information from Ed Fagan these include:
- a) The statute of limitations tolling provisions which we understand to mean the clock stops, applied while the former class action was in existence;
 - b) Equitable tolling principles that we understand exist in the US to toll the statute of limitations but which would not toll the Statute of Limitations in Austria;
 - c) Equitable estoppel that we understand exist in the US to toll the statute of limitations but which would not toll the Statute of Limitations in Austria;
 - d) "Relation back" theory that we understand exist in the US to toll the statute of limitations but which would not toll the Statute of Limitations in Austria; and
 - e) Adding another corporate party to an existing complaint is not possible and would not toll the Statute of Limitations in Austria.
- 6) The Court should note that the Kepner victims' families that I represent commenced the actions as I was informed by Ed Fagan in the United States in 2001. I filed one claim in Austria against GBK and that claim was based upon a very limited liability issue. The only reason I filed that complaint in Austria was to protect the Statute of Limitations against GBK.

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as to that claims as we awaited the US Court's decision on GBK's Motion to Dismiss for alleged lack of jurisdiction.

7) I did not file claims in Austria against any of the entities named in any of the Class Actions.

Before I filed the claim in Austria against GBK I was informed as follows:

a) I was informed by US-counsel in 2002, the US Court had already denied the Motions to

Transfer by Siemens AG, Siemens Austria, Siemens Corporation, Bosch Rexroth

Corporation, Bosch Rexroth AG, Bosch Rexroth Hydraulics US and Omeglow

Corporation in decisions dated August 8 and 14, 2002 respectively (*I have asked Ed*

Fagan to attach a copy of the Court's decision).

b) I was informed by US-counsel that on October 13, 2003 – about 4 weeks before the expiration of the Statute of Limitations in Austria the US Court granted conditional class Certification (*I have asked Ed Fagan to attach a copy of the Court's decision*).

8) The Austrian civil court concerning the statute of limitation reads in its § 1489 as follows in German language:

“§ 1489. Jede Entschädigungsklage ist in drei Jahren von der Zeit an verjährt, zu welcher der Schade und die Person des Beschuldigten dem Beschuldigten bekannt wurde, der Schade mag durch Übertretung einer Vertragspflicht oder ohne Beziehung auf einen Vertrag verursacht worden sein. Ist dem Beschuldigten der Schade oder die Person des Beschuldigten nicht bekannt geworden oder ist der Schade aus einer oder mehreren gerichtlich strafbaren Handlungen, die nur vorsätzlich begangen werden können und mit mehr als einjähriger Freiheitsstrafe bedroht sind, entstanden, so erlischt das Klagerecht nur nach dreißig Jahren.”

9) In English this § 1489 reads as follows (translated as in the book by Paul L. Beuck "The General Civil Code of Austria" published for The Parke School of Foreign and Comparative

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Law Columbia University in the City of New York by Oceana Publications, Inc. Dobbs
Perry, New York, 1972):

"Article 1489. All actions for damages are extinguished after three years as from the moment when the damaged party learned of the damage and the identity of the person who caused it, regardless whether the damage was caused by breach of contract or without relation to a contract. If the damaged party does not become aware of the damages or of the identity of the party who caused the damage, or if the damage arises from a felony, the right to sue is extinguished after thirty years."

- 10) It seems that the defendants in the US have dragged these cases out for years. It now appears that they did so just to get to this point where they could try to get the claims transferred to a Court where - to coin a phrase - they would be "*Dead on Arrival*" either due to a time bar or a jurisdictional bar.
- 11) The Kaprun victims families would be irreparably harmed and prejudiced if the defendants Motion were granted. As noted above, these claims against the defendants listed under Point 4) b) from i) to xv) cannot be prosecuted in Austria because they are time barred in Austria. The Kaprun victims families brought their claims in the United States and have prosecuted them for the last 6 years and wish to finish them expeditiously in a Court where they can be prosecuted and a court where a judgment can be enforced against the US-defendants.
- 12) I pray that the Court deny Defendants renewed Motion.

DECLARATION UNDER 28 USC § 1746

I declare, verify, certify and state under the penalty of perjury the foregoing statements to be true.

Dated: 20 June 2007
Innsbruck, Austria

Ivo Greiter



EXHIBIT 8

NANAE MITSUMOTO, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

ROBERT BOSCH
CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

X
Court
disregards
2nd question
entirely
07-CV-935 (SAS)

JOOP H. STADMAN, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

07-CV-3881 (SAS)

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL TOURIST
OFFICE INC., et al.,

Defendants.

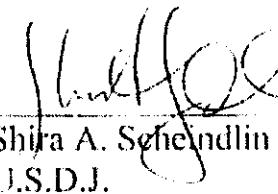
X
SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN, U.S.D.J.:

ORDER

By email dated June 18, 2007, the Court posed a straightforward question to all parties, inquiring how many foreign plaintiffs currently have litigation arising out of the ski train disaster pending – against any defendant – in an Austrian court. By email dated that same day, plaintiffs' counsel fully answered that question. Nevertheless, plaintiffs' submissions of today's date reflect that plaintiffs' counsel misreads the Court's email as an invitation to file more declarations relating to the question of whether the Austrian courts provide an

adequate alternative forum, a consideration a court must address when deciding a motion to dismiss based on *forum non conveniens*. This issue was fully addressed in the parties' submissions and the Court issued its ruling. *See* Opinion & Order dated June 19, 2007. No further briefing was requested on this issue nor will such tardy submissions now be considered. Nevertheless, Local Rule 6.3 permits a party to timely move for reconsideration if it can assert an adequate ground for such a motion. If plaintiffs wish to exercise this option, they must do so in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure.

SO ORDERED:



Shira A. Scheindlin
U.S.D.J.

Dated: New York, New York
June 21, 2007

EXHIBIT 9

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(Case called)

THE COURT: Of course, Mr. Bishop is on the phone

for --

MR. BISHOP: Siemens Transportation Systems.

THE COURT: All right. I will follow the same format

I usually follow with these conferences, stating for the record

the long list of submissions I received, and then stating the

agenda, and then, hopefully, handling that agenda.

I issued an opinion and order on June 19th, 2007.

dismissing the foreign plaintiffs' actions on the ground of

forum non conveniens.

No sooner was that opinion out the door, then the

following submissions were made:

On June 20th, a letter was received from Mr. Fagan

saying that the opinion was premature and improvidently issued,

and enclosing further declarations regarding the adequacy of

Austria as alternative forum.

Secondly on June 20, the same day, Mr. Bishop

responded to Mr. Fagan's letter and asked that the Court

prohibit any further submissions in light of its

June 19th opinion.

Number 3, on June 21, a letter from Mr. Fagan,

inquiring whether the Court's June 19 opinion mooted

plaintiff's motion for sanctions against Omniclo, Mr. Maesloop,

his law firm, that is Mr. Maesloop's law firm, and St. Paul

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 -----x
 3 IN RE: SRI TRAIN FIRE
 4 IN KAPRUN, AUSTRIA
 5 -----x
 6
 7
 8 Before:
 9 HON. SHIRA A. SCHINDLIN.
 10 District Judge
 11
 12 APPEARANCES
 13 Edward Fagan, Esq.
 14 Christina Fry, Esq.
 15 FOR DEFENDANTS:
 16 Paul P. Rooney, Esq.
 17 Sarah E. O'Connell, Esq.
 18 Arti Soni, Esq.
 19 Eileen T. McCabe, Esq.
 20 Warren Harris, Esq.
 21 Robert Littleton, Esq.
 22 Attorney O'Connell, Esq.
 23
 24
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any case. It shall be accompanied by a certificate of counsel of record stating that it is made in good faith."

The Second Circuit has stated that the analysis as to whether a judge has a personal bias or prejudice warranting recusal, quote, looks to extra judicial conduct as the basis for making such a determination. The substantive standard for recusal is whether a reasonable person, knowing all of the facts, would conclude that Court's impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

And that quote is from *Apple v. Jewish Hospital and Medical Center*, Second Circuit 1987.

There is a presumption of judicial impartiality and the movant carries a heavy burden in attempting to overcome this presumption for "a judge is as much obliged not to recuse herself when it is not called for, as she is obliged to when it is." And that is from *In re Drexel Burnham*, Second Circuit 1988.

Thus, when presented with the recusal motion and supporting affidavit, a judge "has an affirmative duty to inquire into the legal sufficiency of such an affidavit and not to disqualify herself unnecessarily," which is from *National Auto Brokers v. General Motors*, Second Circuit 1978.

Plaintiff's motion for recusal, pursuant to section 144, fails for two independent reasons:

First, it is untimely and, thus, procedurally;

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1 defective.

2 Second, it is entirely without merit.

3 I begin with the timeliness. As a threshold matter, 4 Section 144 requires an accusation of bias be submitted in a 5 timely manner, not after the Court has already ordered the case 6 to be dismissed. In the words the Second Circuit, a party must 7 move a recusal "at the earliest possible moment after obtaining 8 knowledge of facts demonstrating the basis for such a claim."

9 In order to ensure that the party is not "holding back 10 a recusal application as a fall-back position in the event of 11 adverse rulings on pending matters," that is *Locascio v. 12 United States*, Second Circuit 2007.

13 This is precisely what plaintiffs are doing here. 14 According to plaintiffs' own submissions, this Court 15 consistently presided over their actions fairly and 16 impartially, up until this Court issued its ruling on 17 June 19th, dismissing plaintiffs' claims for forum non 18 conveniens.

19 But as the Supreme Court has instructed, such 20 substantive rulings are not the basis for finding bias. And I 21 quote at some length from the Supreme Court's decision in 22 *Litkey v. United States* in 1994: "Judicial rulings alone almost 23 never constitute a valid basis for a bias or partiality motion. 24 In and of themselves, that is apart from surrounding comments 25 or accompanying opinion, they cannot possibly show reliance